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# LMDA New & Noteworthy, volume 3, no. 3

Kate Bredeson

Jeremy Stoller

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## December 2017

### Vol. 3, No. 3

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#### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We wish you a joyous and restful holiday season, and much personal and professional success in the year ahead.

As 2017 wraps up, we have just a few updates for you. More to come in 2018!



## Q+A | KATE BREDESON

2016 Bly Grant recipient

Kate's project *Portland in Motion: Dance Dramaturgy in PDX* is one of three that received the [2016 Bly Grant](#). It "proposes dance dramaturgy as a way to instigate a conversation in Portland, Oregon about what dramaturgy is and can be."

In the first of a series of interviews with 2016 Bly recipients, we check in with Kate about her

work.

#### Where are you in your process?

Since I received the grant almost a year ago, I've been working in movement-based new

work dramaturgy in Portland in a variety of capacities. I started by working with choreographer Tahni Holt on her production *Sensation/Disorientation*, which was commissioned by White Bird Dance and premiered in early 2017. This was my first time working in dance and I loved it. It allowed me to really arrive in the room with a fresh set of senses since the entire process was new to me. Holt had me participate in daily physical warmups--what she calls "touch therapy"--and then be an active part of the rehearsal room collaboration alongside her, composer Luke Wyland, and the dancers. The show featured six multigenerational women performers who explored sensation and the radical potentiality of community built through touch and witnessing. It was a rich and powerful experience for me to feel so integral to the project and to be part of such a feminist process.

Since then, I have been continuing the Bly-funded work in a variety of ways. I continue my collaboration with Holt (who runs the artist-driven performance space FLOCK) doing some institutional work with her on grants and future projects, as well as participating in generative explorations for her next show, a solo performance. One exciting outcome is that *Sensation/Disorientation* will travel to Bulgaria in March 2018 for a showcase. I have also started collaborations with other artists in Portland, including choreographer/dancer/scholar Taylor Eggân, whom I mentored on his first project working as a dance dramaturg. Additionally, I consulted with drag performer and artist Wayne Bund on his upcoming solo show.

The most visible element of the project was the lecture and panel about dance dramaturgy I convened as a part of the Fall 2017 Time-Based Art Festival at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art. For this, in September 2017 I brought NYC dance dramaturg Katherine Profeta (author of *Dramaturgy in Motion: At Work on Dance and Movement Performance*) to Portland to give a talk about her work with Ralph Lemon and the stakes of dance dramaturgy. As a companion to the talk, I convened a panel conversation with Profeta, myself, and two other artists who collaborate in a variety of dramaturgical capacities on new work in Portland, Lu Yim and sidony o'neal. Over eighty people attended the event to participate in an afternoon of conversation about dance dramaturgy.

### **Have your goals remained the same along the way?**

Yes. My goal always has been--and remains--for artists and audiences in Portland to think more expansively about dramaturgy, to believe in dramaturgy as an integral part of artistic processes (and one that deserves support and compensation), and to be excited about the possibilities of dramaturgy.

### **What are challenges you're facing?**

Space and funding are significant and urgent challenges in Portland for all artists. When lead artists on projects (directors, choreographers) aren't being paid what they should and

cannot afford rehearsal space, how can they hire and pay dramaturgs?

### **What's next, and how can we follow along with your progress?**

I'm continuing work with Tahni Holt, and also with Eggân and Bund, as well as my own research, writing, and artistic practice. You can see what I'm up to on my website:

<https://www.reed.edu/theatre/bredeson/index.html>

*Interview by Jeremy Stoller*

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*Stay tuned for updates on our other Bly Grant recipients in coming months.*

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## **announcements**

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We are pleased to share more details about our 2018 Conference, including **general information** and a **call for proposals**.

**June 21-23, 2018**

**"Crossing Borders"**

**Toronto, Ontario - June 21-23, 2018**

**Conference Venue:** The Lucie and Thornton Blackburn Conference Centre, is located in the Canary District - one of the newest and fastest growing neighbourhoods in Toronto. The conference venue, in one of the new George Brown residence buildings (where conference attendees will also be able to stay), is fully accessible, has 3 fully-equipped convertible meeting spaces, a lounge area with kitchen, and free WiFi throughout. There are numerous restaurants, coffee shops and other amenities in the area and the 514 Cherry/KingSt Streetcar is steps away.

**Conference Banquet:** The Hot House Restaurant located in the historic St Lawrence Market neighbourhood and offers great food in a casual atmosphere. Our banquet will be held on Saturday, June 23.

**Registration:** Conference registration through the LMDA website will open by March 15, 2018.

**Events:** Lots will be going on in Toronto including Luminato, an international multi-arts festival - we'll have ticket offers and discounts for conference goers. Pride will also be happening that weekend in Toronto with the Parade happening on Sunday - its HUGE!

For more information, including about, accommodations and travel, visit [lmda.org/2018-conference](http://lmda.org/2018-conference).

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## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We seek diverse voices at the conference and invite LMDA members to propose contributions related to the conference theme. Contributions can take the form of panels, individual papers, lecture performances, praxis sessions, roundtables, workshops, performances, installations, etc.

Please submit your proposal of no more than 200 words using our [online submission form](#) by Monday, February 5, 2018. Please make sure your LMDA membership is current and that your profile bio is up to date on [www.lmda.org](http://www.lmda.org). Notification of accepted proposals will be made by March 1, 2018.

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